

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Claims 1-9, 11-26, 28-38, 41-43, 46-48, 51-53 and 56-60 are pending in the present application. Claims 10, 27, 39-40, 44-45, 49-50 and 54-55 are canceled by the present amendment.

Claims 1, 11-14, 17, 19-22, 30-31, 33, 35-37, 41-42, 46-47, 51-52 and 56 are presently amended. Claims 57-60 have been added. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the specification. (*See, e.g.*, FIG. 1, 3-5 and 9.) Claims 57-58 are independent claims and claims 59-60 depend indirectly from independent claims 1 and 22, respectively. No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration of the claims based on the below comments is respectfully requested.

Obviousness Rejection of Claims 1-56 Based On Paraskevakos

In the April 4, 2007 non-final Office Action, claims 1-56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paraskevakos U.S. Patent No. 7,006,664 (“Par”).

Par’s system differs from the claimed invention as described below. Par discloses a system for authenticating currency using a scanner along with optical character recognition software to recognize a currency by denomination or serial number. (column 2, lines 9-18.) Par further discloses digitally storing the serial number of the currency bill and transmitting the numbers from the bills through a communication link to a central processing authority. (column 2, lines 17-18; column 3, lines 16-27.) Par also discloses adding an electronic ID to the optically recognized numbers for a passing bill. (column 2, lines 32-34.) However, in contrast to the claimed invention, Par fails to disclose or suggest creating a data file including currency bill images or a currency bill image tagged with the extracted serial number of that currency bill and the identifier of the transaction involving that currency bill.

Independent Claim 1

Amended claim 1 recites a currency bill scanning device including, *inter alia*, a “processor operable to create a data file comprising one or more currency bill images, wherein each currency bill image is tagged with the extracted serial number of that currency bill and the identifier of the transaction involving that currency bill”. The applied Par reference does not disclose, teach or suggest such limitations.

Par describes reading serial numbers of currency bills and transmitting the numbers from the bills through a communication link. (*See, e.g.*, column 2, lines 17-18; column 3, lines 16-27; column 4, lines 59-61.) Par also discloses adding an electronic ID to the optically recognized numbers for a passing bill. (column 2, lines 32-34.) However, Par does not disclose or suggest creating a data file comprising currency bill images or tagging each currency bill image, as recited in claim 1.

For at least the reasons cited herein, claim 1 is not and cannot be rendered obvious by Par, and thus, should be in a condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 2-21

Claim 10 has been cancelled by the present amendment, thus rendering the rejection of claim 10 moot.

Claims 2-9 and 11-21, which depend from claim 1, are not and cannot be rendered obvious by Par for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1. Thus, claims 2-9 and 11-21 should also be in a condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 22

Amended claim 22 recites a currency bill scanning method including, *inter alia*, “creating a data file comprising one or more currency bill images, wherein each currency bill image is tagged with the extracted serial number of that currency bill and the identifier of the transaction involving that currency bill”. The applied Par reference does not disclose, teach or suggest such limitations.

As discussed above, Par describes reading serial numbers of currency bills and transmitting the numbers from the bills through a communication link. (See, e.g., column 2, lines 17-18; column 3, lines 16-27; column 4, lines 59-61.) Par also discloses adding an electronic ID to the optically recognized numbers for a passing bill. (column 2, lines 32-34.) However, Par does not disclose or suggest creating a data file comprising **currency bill images** or tagging each currency bill image, as recited in claim 22.

For at least the reasons cited herein, claim 22 is not and cannot be rendered obvious by Par, and thus, should be in a condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 23-36

Claim 27 has been cancelled by the present amendment, thus rendering the rejection of claim 27 moot.

Claims 23-26 and 28-36, which depend from claim 22, are not and cannot be rendered obvious by Par for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 22. Thus, claims 23-26 and 28-36 should also be in a condition for allowance.

Independent Claims 37 and 42

Amended claims 37 and 42 recite a method for distributing or receiving currency bills including, *inter alia*, (i) obtaining an identifier for a currency bill distribution or reception transaction, and (ii) linking a currency bill image with the serial number for the distributed or received currency bill and the transaction identifier. The applied Par reference does not disclose, teach or suggest such limitations.

As discussed above, Par describes reading serial numbers of currency bills and transmitting the numbers from the bills through a communication link. (See, e.g., column 2, lines 17-18; column 3, lines 16-27; column 4, lines 59-61.) Par also discloses adding an electronic ID to the optically recognized numbers for a passing bill. (column 2, lines 32-34.) However, Par does not disclose or suggest linking a **currency bill image** with the serial number for a distributed or received currency bill, as recited in claims 37 and 42.

For at least the reasons cited herein, claims 37 and 42 are not and cannot be rendered obvious by Par, and thus, should be in a condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 38-41 and 43-46

Claims 39-40 and 44-45 have been cancelled by the present amendment, thus rendering the rejection of those claims moot.

Claims 38, 41, 43 and 46, which depend from either claims 37 or 42, are not and cannot be rendered obvious by Par for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claims 37 and 42. Thus, claims 38, 41, 43 and 46 should also be in a condition for allowance.

Independent Claims 47 and 52

Amended claims 47 and 52 recite a device for distributing or receiving currency bills including, *inter alia*, (i) a means for obtaining an identifier for a currency bill distribution or reception transaction, and (ii) linking a currency bill image with the serial number for the distributed or received currency bill and the transaction identifier. The applied Par reference does not disclose, teach or suggest such limitations.

As discussed above, Par describes reading serial numbers of currency bills and transmitting the numbers from the bills through a communication link. (See, e.g., column 2, lines 17-18; column 3, lines 16-27; column 4, lines 59-61.) Par also discloses adding an electronic ID to the optically recognized numbers for a passing bill. (column 2, lines 32-34.) However, Par does not disclose or suggest linking a currency bill image with the serial number for a distributed or received currency bill, as recited in claims 47 and 52.

For at least the reasons cited herein, claims 47 and 52 are not and cannot be rendered obvious by Par, and thus, should be in a condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 48-51 and 52-56

Claims 49-50 and 54-55 have been cancelled by the present amendment, thus rendering the rejection of those claims moot.

Claims 48, 51, 53 and 56, which depend from either claims 47 or 52, are not and cannot be rendered obvious by Par for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claims 47 and 52. Thus, claims 48, 51, 53 and 56 should also be in a condition for allowance.

New Claims 57-60

To expedite prosecution, the Applicant will comment on the applied Par reference with respect to new claims 57-60. Claim 57 and 58 recite a device for distributing or receiving currency bills including, *inter alia*, a processor operable for linking a currency bill image with the serial number for the distributed or received currency bill and the transaction identifier. For similar reasons discussed above in connection with claims 37, 42, 47 and 52, Par would not and cannot render claims 57 and 58 obvious. Furthermore, claims 59 and 60, which depend from claims 2 and 23, are not and cannot be rendered obvious by Par for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with independent claims 1 and 22. Thus, claims 57-60 should be in a condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that claims 1-9, 11-26, 28-38, 41-43, 46-48, 51-53 and 56-60 are in condition for allowance and action toward that is respectfully requested. If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 425-8552.

It is believed that no additional fees are due other than for the one-month extension of time; however, should any additional fees be required (except for payment of the issue fee), the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from the Nixon Peabody Deposit Account No. 50-4181, Order No. 247079-000379USP1.

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Respectfully submitted,

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